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SERVICE DATE – SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 1087 (Sub-No. 1X)

GRENADA RAILWAY LLC—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN MONTGOMERY,
CARROLL, HOLMES, YAZOO, AND MADISON COUNTIES, MISS.

Docket No. AB 1087 (Sub-No. 2X)

GRENADA RAILWAY LLC—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN YALOBUSHA
COUNTY, MISS.

Docket No. FD 35940¹

ILLINOIS COMPANY RAIL ROAD, LLC—LEASE AND OPERATION EXEMPTION—
NORTH CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY

Decided: September 15, 2015

On February 9, 2015, upon request of the parties, the Board placed Docket Nos. AB 1087 (Sub-No. 1X) and (Sub-No. 2X) in abeyance to allow Grenada Railway LLC (GRYR) and the North Central Mississippi Regional Railroad Authority (NCMRRA) time to finalize negotiations toward an agreement that would allow NCMRRA to purchase the lines at issue from GRYR. Those proceedings remain in abeyance pending notice from GRYR either that the parties have reached agreement for the sale of the lines and GRYR wishes to terminate the abandonment proceedings or that GRYR requests the Board remove the proceedings from abeyance, and the Board grants that request, or the Board removes the proceedings from abeyance on its own motion.

In its order placing the abandonment proceedings in abeyance, the Board ordered GRYR and NCMRRA to file (jointly if possible) a status report every 60 days from the date of service of that order, until the parties reach a sale agreement or the proceedings are removed from abeyance. The first status report was received from the parties on May 19, 2015.

On June 23, 2015, Illinois Company Rail Road, LLC (ICRR) filed a verified notice of exemption in Docket No. FD 35940, in which ICRR indicates its intent to lease and operate the

¹ These proceedings are not consolidated but are being addressed in the same decision for administrative convenience.

Grenada Branch Line and the Water Valley Branch Line.² ICRR states in its notice that NCMRRA was in the process of acquiring GRYR (which owns the Grenada Branch Line and the Water Valley Branch Line), after which ICRR would operate those lines under a lease from NCMRRA and GRYR. Notice of this exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on July 9, 2015. That notice stated that the transaction could be consummated on or after July 23, 2015, and that ICRR expected to consummate the transaction by August 7, 2015.

In light of these developments, the Board will request NCMRRA and GRYR to file a status report as soon as possible, but not later than one week from the date of service of this order. That status report shall (1) confirm the current ownership of GRYR and the lines at issue in Docket Nos. AB 1087 (Sub-No. 1X) and (Sub-No. 2X); (2) confirm whether the transaction at issue in Docket No. 35940 has been consummated; and (3) indicate whether GRYR requests that the abandonment proceedings in Docket Nos. AB 1087 (Sub-No. 1X) and (Sub-No. 2X) be terminated.

It is ordered:

1. GRYR and NCMRRA shall file (jointly if possible) a status report including the information described above, as soon as possible but not later than September 22, 2015.
2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

² The Grenada Branch Line includes the line at issue in Docket No. AB 1087 (Sub-No. 1X); the Water Valley Branch Line is the line at issue in Docket No. AB 1087 (Sub-No. 2X).